

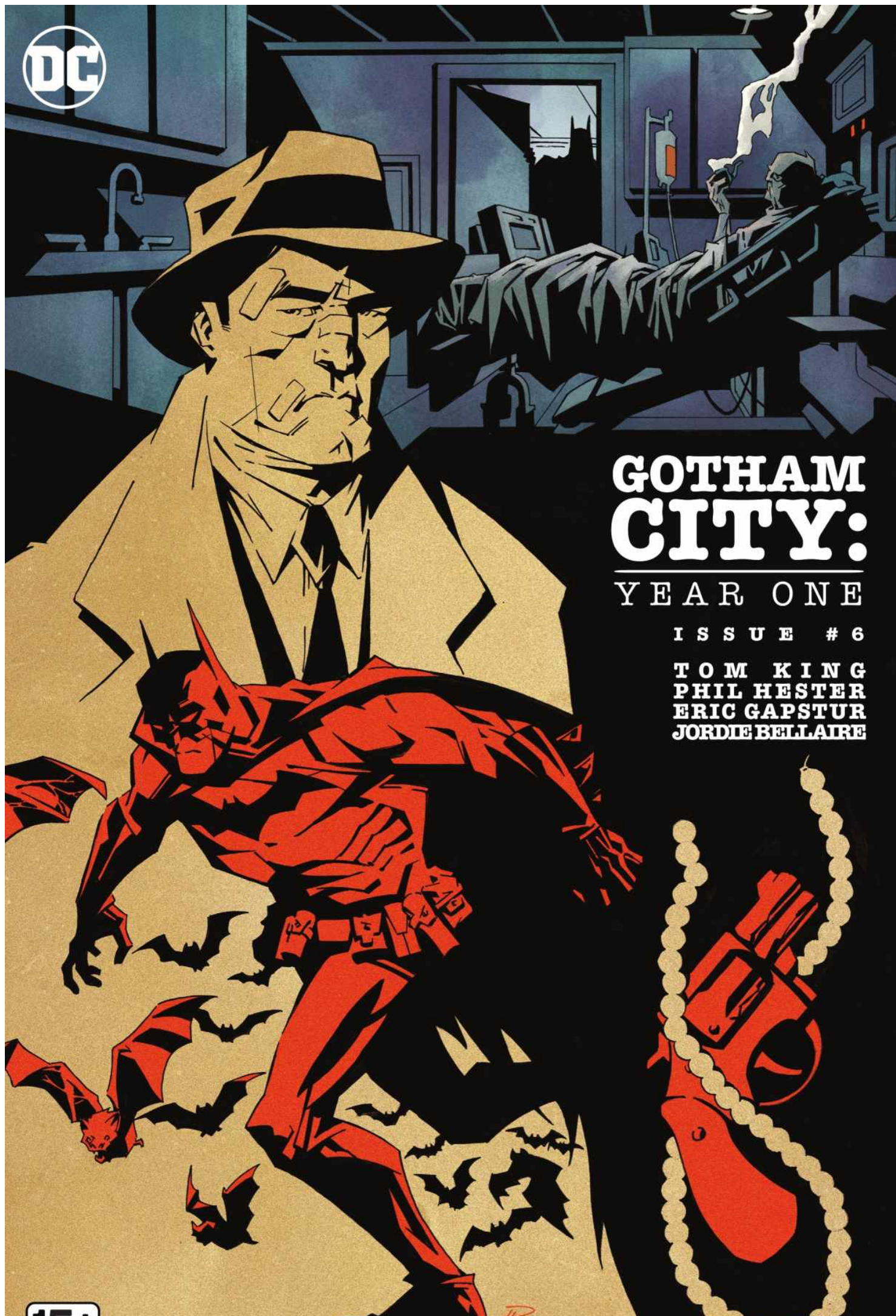


GOTHAM CITY:

YEAR ONE

ISSUE #6

TOM KING
PHIL HESTER
ERIC GAPSTUR
JORDIE BELLAIRE



**THE DARK KNIGHT. HELL'S ELITE SOLDIER.
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- *Batman/Spawn: War Devil* #1 and *Spawn/Batman* #1 from the '90s
- Behind-the-scenes art gallery!

WRITTEN BY

**TODD McFARLANE
FRANK MILLER
DOUG MOENCH
CHUCK DIXON
ALAN GRANT**

ART BY

**GREG CAPULLO
TODD McFARLANE
KLAUS JANSON**



I don't know when I decided to become a cop.

I'd like to say it was after my brother died in their station, like I was trying to find out what happened.

But things aren't always easy like that.

If I'm honest with myself, I was just out of the service and didn't have a lot of other action going for me.

YOU TOOK OUR PRINCESS!

I'd picked up a medal or two, but I got into trouble with some anger bull. A mouthy sargent ended up in the hospital.

Let's just say no one was writing me a college recommendation.

I was walking one day, going past a GCPD house, and I went in and asked if they maybe had a form to fill out for recruits.

They did. I took it.

That it was the same place George went in and never came out of... that didn't occur to me until later.

POW

SLAM



I knew it.

Then I checked
the box for
white.

Casual as anything,
ink on paper, nothing
more than that.



@%#%#%
THEM ALL!

LIKE THEY
#%#%#% OUR
PRINCESS!

I want to tell you that it's
hard to understand why I
did that because so much
has changed since then.

But you and I, we know,
don't we? Nothing changes.
It just moves. From here to
there and back again.

There are certain
spaces I'm not
allowed into unless
I mark the wrong
box.

At that moment I wanted to
get into that space, into that
station, into the place my
brother never got out of.

So I put some
ink on some
paper, and I
sent it back in.





I got accepted, I went through the academy, graduated at the top of my class.

I worked as a street cop, mostly on the North, saying please and thank you to all the nice, rich women as they crossed the street with their baubles jangling.

I made friends with the other cops, made friends with my captain.

When they asked me where I was from, I just said my mom owned a store on the South Side, so we had to live down there.

I'd put some emphasis on "had" and got a good laugh out of the crowd.

I got promoted, I got promoted again, then a third time.

Detective Sam Bradley, first Black detective in GCPD history.

But, y'know, no one knew that.

Being so high up, I finally got access to the record files, and one night when no one was caring, I snuck some out and had a look.

There was his name, my brother. There was his picture and his fingerprints and his signature and his arrest record.

Besides that, there wasn't anything. No report on his death or who'd handled him or what'd gone down.

Just some initials in red at the bottom of one of papers.

"NWC."



CHAPTER SIX

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**1:25 Variant Cover by
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**Editor
Ben Abernathy**

This comic contains language of a racially offensive nature and may not be suitable for all age groups. Its inclusion is an intentional creative choice intended to highlight the fact that language of this type was frequently deployed in past decades and remains in use today, even as contexts evolve. Readers for whom such language is triggering or hurtful should be advised.

A few days later,
I was having a bite
with the chief.



As if it meant nothing,
I told him I'd seen
something weird in
a file.

"NWC."

Asked him if he knew
anything about it.



Chief started laughing,
deep laughs, like
@&%@\$#% Santa Claus.

Ho ho ho.



He said...

Sometimes animals
get out their cages,
even the soft,
tame ones.

And being out there in all that free
air drives them wild, and they can do
a lot of damage to a lot of people.

It's best then just
to put them down.
That's how you
keep the city safe.



"NWC"
means: Negro
Went





I'd hiked up the driveway and found him at the front door.

He said I'd woken the Waynes' up when I'd buzzed at the gate.

They were in the library now, ready to see me.

Anyway. I got to the manor and took out Carter.

Frankly, I probably could've handled that better.



He stood there waiting for me to come in.

And I slugged him in the gut.



He keeled, stumbled back, then straightened and smiled, a little kid kind of smile, with @%@\$ dimples on it.

As if he'd been waiting his whole life for this carnival.



By the time I left him, he wasn't smiling anymore.









Richard and I started tumbling.

BANG

And Constance started talking.

I WENT OUT TO THE GARDEN ONE DAY, THINKING TO PRUNE THE ROSES.

USUALLY, JOSÉ HANDLES THEM, BUT IT WAS SUCH A PLEASANT DAY OUT AND, WELL, TO BE HONEST, I WAS A TAD BORED.

I ENDED UP WANDERING FARTHER THAN I THOUGHT FROM THE MANOR, JUST STARTED STROLLING. I WAS PREGNANT THEN, AND I WAS THINKING ABOUT OUR NEW LIFE.

THIS LIFE WE WERE GOING TO ERECT TOGETHER. MR. AND MRS. WAYNE.

Explaining something that had been in her too long.

SLAM

GUH!
I, OF COURSE, MARRIED INTO THIS HOUSE.

LIKE EVERYONE ELSE, I HAD SPENT MY LIFE ADMIRING THE WAYNES FROM AFAR. THE GREAT FAMILY OF GOTHAM, WHOM EVERYONE ENVIED AND IDOLIZED.

AND NOW I WAS ONE OF THEM. I WAS THEM.

A rot that could only be scraped away by first coming to the surface...

THEN THE GROUND GAVE WAY BENEATH MY FEET.

I WAS ABRUPTLY FALLING AND FALLING, THROUGH DIRT AND BRAMBLE.

...and seeing the light.

UNTIL I CAME TO REST IN A CAVE FULL OF BATS.





AT FIRST I THOUGHT IT WAS JUST A TRICK OF THE GEOGRAPHY. SOME HOLE BROUGHT ABOUT BY MOUNTAINS CLASHING TOGETHER.

THAT SORT OF THING.



BUT SOON MY EYES ADJUSTED TO THE GLOOM, AND I SAW SOMETHING, WELL, NOT SOMETHING MADE BY ANY MOUNTAIN.

THERE WERE...RICHARD KEPT...

THAT STUBBY CAVE WAS FULL OF TROPHIES, HIS PERVERTED COLLECTION.



PICTURES. PAPERS. FURS. JEWELRY. DRESSES. LEGGINGS. BRAS. PANTIES.

ALL OF HIS CONQUESTS. MOST OF THEM GIRLS I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE. MANY, MANY OF THEM COLORED. A FEW OF THEM, THOUGH, I DID KNOW. FRIENDS OF MINE.

JUST ALL HUNG UP IN A CAVE WHERE HE CAME TO... I COULDN'T FATHOM WHAT HE CAME TO DO WHEN HE WAS THERE, OR WHEN I DID TRY TO... I SHUDDERED.



IT WAS A DISGUSTING PLACE. IT STANK OF DEBAUCHERY.

I WANTED NOTHING MORE THAN BE OUT OF IT. SO I SEARCHED AND EVENTUALLY I SPIED A PATH THAT LED UNDER OUR HOUSE.

LEADING TO A LADDER, LEADING TO A DOOR I NEVER KNEW WAS THERE. IN THE LIBRARY. BEHIND THE CLOCK.



I SHOWERED. I CRIED. THEN I WAS NUMB, AND I SAT AND STARED OUT THE WINDOW, TOWARD THE ROSES AND THE HOLE IN MY YARD.

WHEN RICHARD CAME HOME, HE KISSED MY CHEEK, ASKED HOW MY DAY HAD GONE...



...I SAID IT

Finally, I got Richard settled. I looked up to Constance, who looked down to me.



NOW.

MR. BRADLEY, PLEASE LET MY HUSBAND UP.

GOTHAM CITY IS BURNING, AND WE HAVE SO LITTLE TIME FOR GAMES.

N/N/N.

And for the first time that night, I was afraid.

WHAT THE HELL IS WRONG WITH YOU?

See, my general feeling is there are many people who'll point a gun at you. There are only a few that'll pull that trigger.

ASK HIM.

I DID NOT KIDNAP MY OWN DAUGHTER WITH THE HELP OF MY LOVER.

Most people you see just doubt themselves and the world and their God too much to kill someone, to take that risk at damnation.

But there are some who go the other way.

NO, ALL YOU DID WAS KILL HER.

Knowing which people are which is most of what I do for a living.

MY, MY, MR. BRADLEY.

AREN'T YOU THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE.

And looking at Constance Wayne, I had no doubt that she had no doubts at all.







BLAM

SINCERELY,
THE BAT-MAN.

That's how your
grandfather died.

Shot in the head as
he lied to his wife.



His body dropped to the ground.

I DIDN'T KILL HELEN.



And Constance threw her gun on it.

I FOUND THE KEY TO THEIR HOTEL ROOM IN HIS DAMN PANTS. WHAT A GENIUS THAT RICHARD IS. WAS. EXCUSE ME.

I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT. I COULDN'T CALL THE POLICE OR EVEN THESE HIRED PEOPLE, NOT WITHOUT RISKING THE WHOLE WORLD FINDING OUT WHAT HE HAD DONE.

WAYNE ENTERPRISES WAS ALREADY SINKING. CAN YOU IMAGINE WHAT WOULD HAPPEN WITH THAT SCANDAL?



"BUT THE DAY THE TWO OF YOU WENT TO GIVE HIS GIRL THE MONEY, I KNEW THEY WOULD HAVE TO LEAVE THE CHILD ALONE.

"I SNUCK OUT TO GET MY BABY. I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT THEIR DESIGNS FOR HER WERE, BUT I WASN'T TRUSTING THEM.

"I THOUGHT I'D JUST TAKE HELEN BACK, TELL MY HUSBAND I KNEW, AND...AND I DIDN'T HAVE MUCH OF A PLAN AFTER THAT, TO BE HONEST.



BUT WHEN I GOT IN THE ROOM, GOT TO HER CRIB, THERE WAS VOMIT ALL OVER HER. ON THE SHEETS AND ON HER CLOTHES.

THEY LEFT HER ALONE, SHE WOKE, WAS PROBABLY SCREAMING, CRYING FOR HER MOTHER, AND SHE THREW UP. SHE WAS LYING ON HER BACK.



MY DARLING GIRL, THE PRINCESS OF GOTHAM.

SHE DROWNED IN HER OWN SICK.



"WHEN YOU FOUND THE BODY, MR. BRADLEY, IT HIT THE PAPERS.

"THE BLACKS KILLED THE PRINCESS.

"AND THE RIOTS CAME, AND THE BUILDINGS BURNED.

AND IN THE MIDST OF ALL THAT PAIN, AFTER LOSING HIS BABY AND HIS HAVEN, POOR RICHARD...POOR, POOR RICHARD.

HE TOOK HIS OWN LIFE.

WHAT AN ATROCIOUS, UNFORESEEN TRAGEDY.

"NOW THE GRIEVED WIDOW, THE SOLE HEIR TO THE WAYNE FORTUNE, IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THE CITY.

"AND WHEN SHE DOES. OH MY.

"WHEN SHE RAISES HER VOICE AND PLEADS FOR THE VIOLENCE TO END IN THE NAME OF HER LATE DAUGHTER AND HER LATE, DEAR HUSBAND...

SHE WILL BE THE HERO THAT GOTHAM NEEDS.







And there it all *was*.
Laid before me.

AND
WHAT ABOUT
ME?

Like a map to
a new city.

LODER ALWAYS
SAID YOU LOVE THE
BLACKS. THEY'RE THE
ONES THAT WOULD BE
THE MOST HURT
IF THIS EVER
GOT OUT.

I DON'T
THINK YOU'LL
DO A DAMN
THING.



I thought back to the
beginning, to looking at
that letter, deciding not
to open it, to go over
to the Waynes' with it.

IS THAT
IT? ALL I AM
IN THIS IS JUST
A STRAW IN
THE WIND.

BLOWING
THIS WAY AND
THAT.



I wondered why I had
done it. Why I hadn't
just tossed it in
the trash.

IT WASN'T
PERSONAL.

Best I could
say was that
I'd always
seen the
family from
below.

NO.

IT WAS
ALPHABETICAL.



And I wanted
to climb up
there, meet
the gods eye
to eye.

I...
DON'T THINK I
UNDERSTAND.

I needed to
see how--in
the grand
scheme of
empires rising
and falling--
how small I
really was.

NOTHING.

IT'S
JUST...

I BROKE
MY PIPE.





There wasn't much to it after that.

She'd broken a city for her daughter. I think I'd have killed her, if I didn't know she was the only one who could fix it.

MY HELEN PASSED, AND NOW... NOW...MY HUSBAND HAS... IN THE WAKE OF HER PASSING, HE HAS TAKEN HIS OWN LIFE.

I...DON'T KNOW HOW I CAN EVER...EVER OVERCOME THIS PAIN.



I stepped over the body, and I left.

BUT I WISH TO SAY...TO SAY TO ALL THE PEOPLE OUT THERE FEELING...FEELING WHAT I AM FEELING, FOR MY DAUGHTER AND NOW MY DEAR RICHARD.

ALL OF YOU...I...

I BEG YOU... I BEG OF YOU, MY FRIENDS, MY NEIGHBORS.

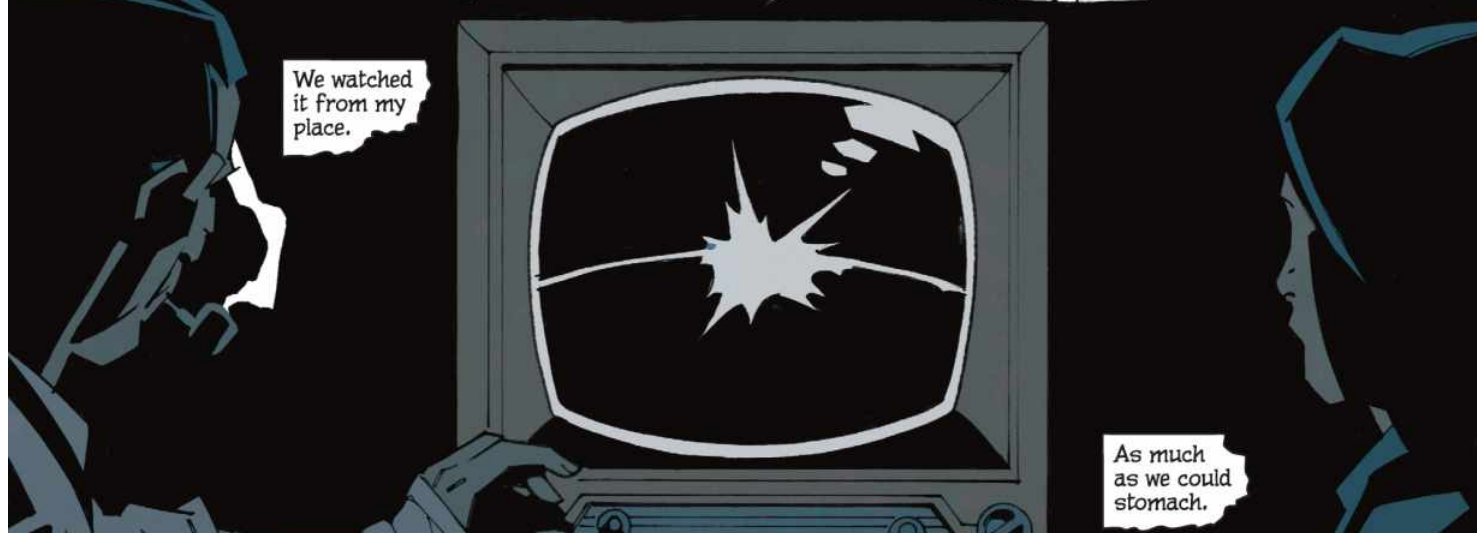


Not too long later, Constance was on the TV.

GO HOME, BE WITH YOUR FAMILY, DON'T...DON'T DESTROY WHAT MY HUSBAND SO LOVED. WHAT MY DAUGHTER NEVER GOT TO ENJOY.

OUR CITY. OUR GOTHAM.

LET THEIR BEAUTIFUL SPIRITS GUIDE YOUR ACTIONS TONIGHT. LET THEIR PEACE TONIGHT BRING YOU TO YOUR PEACE.



We watched it from my place.

As much as we could stomach.

Sue spent the night. I slept on the couch, she took my bed.

And we started out in the morning.

I knew some people back then, and we had plenty of dough.

I got her a new I.D. New papers. New clothes. New look.

Then I drove her across the state border, to a bus station.

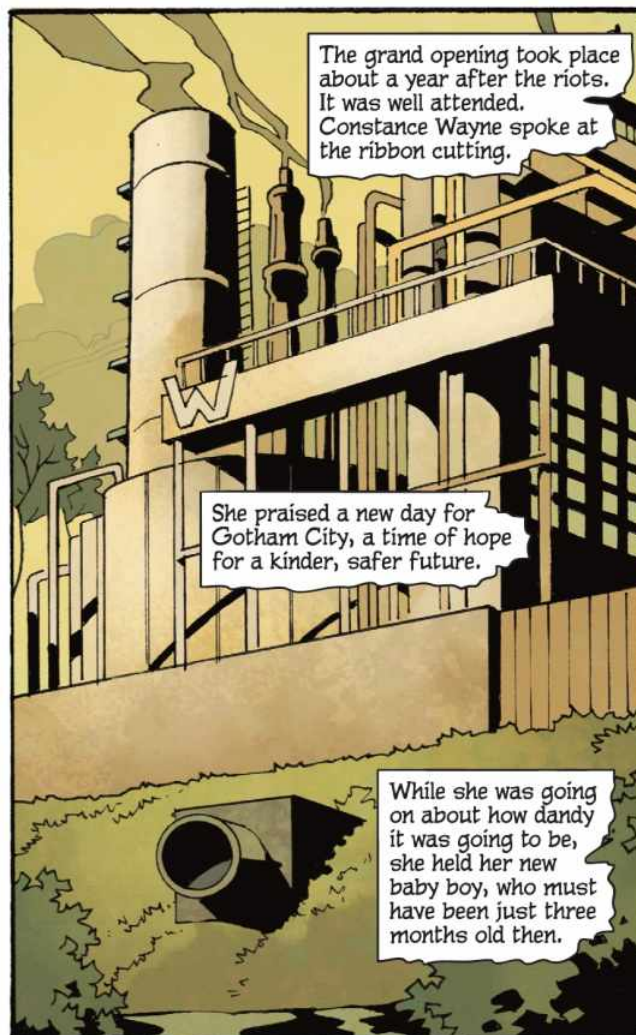
I didn't ask where she was going, and she didn't tell me.

She just looked west, back toward Gotham, and she said she'd miss it.

Then she went to get her ticket.

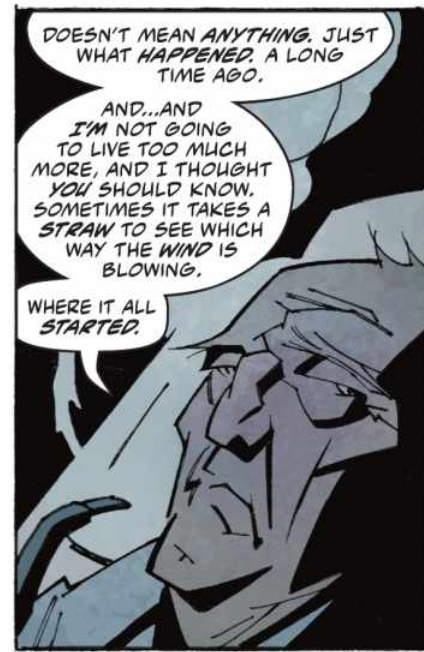
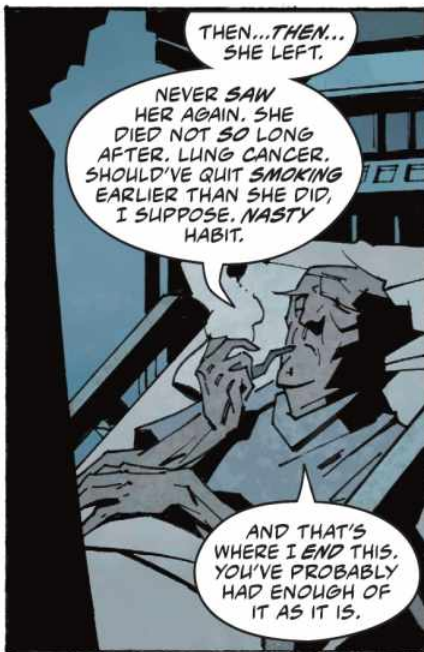
I walked back to my car and drove home.













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DC NATION INTERVIEW

DAVID F. SANDBERG THE DIRECTOR OF

SHAZAM! FURY OF THE GODS

What's the status of the Shazam family when this film starts?

In the first movie, the whole family got powers. When we catch up with them, it's been a couple of years and they've all been heroes for a little while. It hasn't been all great, though. They have problems working together and balancing their everyday lives with being superheroes. Billy also finally found the family he'd been searching for in the first movie. He's really struggling with keeping them all together, because they all have different wants and needs.

How does *Shazam! Fury of the Gods* build on what was set up in the first film?

One of the most exciting aspects of the second film was to go huge, have bigger stakes and action, but still keep that intimate family feel of the first film.

The fun part about making a bigger Shazam movie is the scope of the sets. The Rock of Eternity makes a return in a new way, because the kids have taken it over, added arcade machines and TVs, and made it look really cool. Also, in the first film we got a glimpse of the Room of Doors. Now we've really expanded it into a huge space with millions of doors, all going to different dimensions, planets, and realities.

Who are the new villains, the Daughters of Atlas?

We felt that a superhero in a movie is only as good as their villains...and we have some of the best ones. We wanted to aim high, and our goal was to get someone like Helen Mirren. So, we offered it to her, and to our surprise, she said yes right away. It was a dream come true. Then we went out to Lucy Liu, who also said yes. She's someone I've wanted to work with forever.

Why do you think people love the Shazam family?

I think [the 2019 film] *Shazam!* was as popular as it was because it has a lot of heart and humor, and it was something a little bit different from other superhero films. It was a very sincere joy showcased in the film and with wish fulfillment in a very grounded way that was still fantastical.

DC
SHAZAM!
FURY OF THE GODS

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

